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Date: January 15, 2004

Docket No.: 0020-5216P

MS PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As authorized by the inventor(s), transmitted herewith for filing is a patent application applied for on behalf of the inventor(s) according to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(c).

Inventor(s):

Kenji OHNISHI; Masayuki OKUZAWA; Yuzo OKUDAIRA;

Hideyuki ANDO; Kazunori UMEOKA; Ryo SUGAWARA;

Bunkai RYU

For:

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Enclosed are:

- A specification consisting of thirty-three (33) pages
- Five (5) sheet(s) of formal drawings
- Applicant claims small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27
- Applicant does not claim priority
- Applicant claims the right of priority under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) based on Application No(s). 2003-096844 and 2003-096846 filed in Japan on March 31, 2003.

Certified copy(ies) is(are) attached hereto.

○ Certified copy(ies) will follow.

図 Please send correspondence to:

> BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP or Customer No. 02292 P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, VA 22040-0747 (703) 205-8000

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)

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